



Northampton Special Act Charter Drafting Committee

David P. Stevens, Chair
Gail L. Perlman
Madeline Weaver Blanchette
Marc Warner
Richard Greene

Todd Thompson
William Scher
Thomas Miranda
Megan Murphy Wolf

Stephen McGoldrick, Deputy Director, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, University of Massachusetts

Public Forum Minutes
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

1. Should the City Council/School Committee structure change? Should there be more or less Ward Councilors, At-Large Councilors, School Committee members or At-Large School Committee members?
2. Should the Mayor, City Council/School Committee be elected for 2-year or 4-year terms? Should the Mayor, City Council/School Committee have term limits (i.e., no more than two 4-year terms)?
3. Should Mayor, City Council/School Committee compensation and /or benefits increase or decrease?
4. Should the Mayor preside over City Council/School Committee meetings?
5. Should the City Clerk be elected or appointed?

No votes will be taken.

NEW BUSINESS – *Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*

Please visit http://www.northamptonma.gov/citycouncil/Special_Act_Charter_Drafting_Committee/ for more information.

If you are unable to attend this Public Forum:

To submit questions and/or comments regarding the Charter, please email mmidura@northamptonma.gov or deliver or mail written comments to Mary L. Midura, Executive Secretary, City Council office, 210 Main Street, Room 16, Northampton, MA 01060.

Chair David Stevens called the Public Forum to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: David Stevens, Gail Perlman, Madeline Weaver Blanchette, Marc Warner, Richard Greene, Todd Thompson, William Scher, Megan Murphy Wolf
Absent: Stephen McGoldrick, Thomas Miranda

Chair David Stevens welcomed the public and all Committee members introduced themselves. David Stevens explained that a second Public Forum would be held on December 6, 2011. Tonight's forum will focus for 30 minutes on each topic.

Gail Perlman stated the mission of the Special Act Charter Drafting Committee: The Northampton Charter or "Constitution" has lasted for 100 years. This Committee must think of a charter for the next 100 years. A mistake

in my own life, when hiring staff, had been to change a policy. But to know what I am fixing with that new policy was not productive. The work of this Committee is not to be stuck on little or recent things that will result in missed opportunity; we need to encourage all to keep the perspective of the big picture... This Charter should be a map for Northampton going forward for the next 100 years so that we are guided and all can govern this amazing City.

David Stevens thanked NCTV and North Street Association for taping this public forum. Copies of the powerpoint of this meeting are available here tonight. There are sign-in sheets for each question on the agenda. Each topic will have 30 minutes. If you wish to submit further comments in writing, those comments will be added to the public record. David Stevens also gave overview of the Special Act Charter Drafting Committee and previous efforts to revise the Charter, Home Rule Amendment v. Home Rule Petition, and proposed timeline of this Committee leading to voters of Northampton to decide by vote to approve or reject on November 6, 2012.

William Scher gave opening remarks regarding Question 1, per the slide.

Councilor Marianne LaBarge stated that City Councilors work from 40-60 hours at their job, and most Councilors are very committed to their constituents. Councilor LaBarge noted that the structure of City Council and School Committee should not change; it would be valuable to have School Committee members come in to speak to the Charter Committee.

Wendy Foxmyn submitted written statements (attached), and also stated that the Best Practices Committee strongly recommended a new City Charter be created.

Jesus Leyva stated that the Best Practices Committee recommended modernization of the City Charter. Two other items of concern are consolidation of power and a need for greater public power. Term limits addresses the problem of too much power; it is very hard to unseat someone, this should have consideration.

Committee member Marc Warner noted that the amount of time Councilors must commit can be onerous.

Councilor-Elect Bill Dwight stated that Councilors work on City Council and subcommittee issues. If a Councilor is also working full-time, this is extra. Many people will not be able to give so much time. Councilors spend a minimum of 15 hours weekly on City issues and meetings.

Councilor Gene Tacy stated that there is a tremendous amount of work with calls and committees, but did not take on the job for the compensation, but as a labor of love for the City.

Councilor Maureen Carney stated that Councilors make of the job what they will; last weekend, for example, was the cleanup effort and was a good experience for all neighbors. The salary for a Councilor is not commensurate with the time put into the job.

Councilor Jesse Adams stated support for the current form of City Council.

Claudia Lefko stated support for consolidation of power in wards and neighborhoods.

Mimi Odgers stated the current structure is good and Councilors don't have time for all the issues they face. The Mayor has a full staff and is a resource for the City Council. Information should go to all Councilors for research and contact of citizens.

Megan MurphyWolf gave opening remarks regarding Question 2, per the slides.

Bill Ames noted his service of 26 years on City Council and does not favor term limits. Those in office gain knowledge as they serve, and the fundraising is awesome, but should not have to be. It may scare potential candidates off. If terms were 4 years, this would be daunting to candidates. Terms should stay at 2 years.

Councilor Marianne LaBarge stated that she is not in favor of term limits. Councilors also have to campaign. The voters can decide.

Wendy Foxmyn stated her support for 3 year terms, 2 years is too short, 4 years too long. If there were a choice, she would prefer 4 years with term limits of 12 years maximum. Younger people should get involved. With 2 year terms, Councilors are always running. Greenfield has 3 year terms, but it can be difficult in managing.

Jesus Leyva spoke in favor of Mayor and City Council term limits. A 2 year term creates a need for dialog with the constituents. A longer term makes it easier to only speak to a circle of people. The mayor should serve no more than 4 years, City Council no more than 6 years. Communities change as the world changes.

Mary Kasper stated that she is in favor of 3 year terms. There is a learning curve for any office. Low turnout for voting is discouraging, and is often low even when combined with the presidential race.

Claudia Lefko spoke in favor of 3 year terms on School Committee At-Large, not the current 2 year terms. Ward School Committee members serve 4 year terms. This should be reversed. Two years is too short to develop a constituency. School Committee or City Council make decisions of public financing. Ms. Lefko was glad to serve, but there is a need for the City to have active citizens.

Mimi Odgers spoke in favor of term limits. Mayor should have 3 year term, as 4 years is too long, 2 years is too short for someone who makes such important decisions. A fresh perspective is good. Ms. Odgers is in favor of term limits for School Committee.

Barry Hirsch spoke in favor of consecutive terms.

Deb Jacobs spoke in favor of 3 year terms, but not for term limits. It is a vibrant City, and we want more citizens to participate. Elected officials need time to learn things such as budget information.

Alan Seewald stated he does not support term limits. There is a need for long-term Councilors for experience. The Mayor should be a 4 year term to be a functional leader and Executive of the City. The At-Large Councilor should have longer term than ward City Councilors, as the At-Large must campaign Citywide. A consolidation of power will be maintained with Ward Councilors at 2 year terms and Mayor at 4 year terms.

Councilor-Elect Bill Dwight stated opposition to term limits. If the whole Council had term limits, enormous change could occur. There is a need for new v. experienced Councilors. Some races can be very competitive. School Committee members require a great deal of time with issues as we are talking about our children's futures.

Councilor Maureen Carney stated that term limits are not necessary, elections will naturally take care of that. Those serving must run campaigns while serving. Councilor Murphy and Councilor Carney agree that 4 year terms are not good for Northampton with the work Councilors must put in for the City.

Former Mayor Mary Ford stated support for 2 year terms as Congress. It keeps us closer to the people. It might be good to look at 3 year terms, to coincide with State and Federal elections. There should be a separate forum with School Committee on these issues. The Mayor is a voting member of the School Committee with added hours. The School Committee used to set the tax rate. School Committee powers include appointments of superintendents, supervising, budgets. There should not be term limits as elected officials are not full-time municipal, and being an elected official is a citizen job.

Councilor Gene Tacy stated he is opposed to term limits, as experience is valuable.

Councilor Owen Freeman-Daniels stated his preference of 3 year terms, and Councilors should always have an ear to public opinion.

David Stevens noted that local elections cannot be on a State election day. Greenfield holds their elections in May.

Todd Thompson gave opening remarks regarding Question 3, per the slides. Questions of compensation were suggested by the consultant. This is the opportunity to look at current practices so as to not tie our hands moving forward. Comparable pay in surrounding cities/towns is \$10,000. Public service is a reward. Some cities do not pay School Committee or Councilors.

Councilor Gene Tacy stated that Councilors do not do the job for the money.

Councilor Marianne LaBarge stated that she did not run for the money and benefits, but for what was in her heart.

Wendy Foxmyn stated support for transparency. It is rare for School Committee to receive a salary. We should not begrudge those who want to take the health insurance. The country should be moving toward national health insurance. Health coverage is good, but should not be a reason to run for office.

Barry Roth stated that Councilors should be paid more and compensated for their time. The compensation is inadequate. Some Councilors do not do their work; for example, the fire department stipends, two Councilors were not present for the vote. There is not enough incentive to do a good job.

Mimi Odgers stated that City Councilors should be paid more. The average person cannot afford to take on this job. There is no way to dedicate to the job for Councilors or School Committee positions.

Stephen Herrell stated that City Councilors are much underpaid. Councilors must get background information on work, plans, and programs. The salary is not respectful of the hours per week that Councilors put into the job. More people would run for City Council if the pay were \$30,000-\$40,000. School Committee meetings and City Council meetings often go from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. It is hard work, with unfair salary. School Committee should be paid as much or more than City Council, as they must work on budget, expenditures, graduated income tax, loopholes in the tax code, and City income tax, with more taxes and income to budget and pay. Both School Committee and City Council should be paid more.

Emily Odgers stated that City Council and School Committee should be paid more. We must think about the future with college debt, to encourage public service. People will not want to serve at the present compensation.

Claudia Lefko stated she is against city government becoming paid professionals. The present pay keeps us connected. The pay is not the reason to run for office. Compensation is just right. Elected officials should be motivated to serve toward the ideal City government.

Councilor Carney noted that, presently, 7 of 9 Councilors declined the benefits. If any were to lose their jobs, they would have to step down from the Council. There is pay v. work involved.

Deb Jacobs stated that the mayor receives a salary, but Councilors receive a stipend.

Jeff Massimino stated support of \$10,000 with benefits, or a compromise. The compensation should not be about money.

Mimi Odgers stated that elected officials are to serve the community. It could be a luxury for those who can afford it. \$5,000 is reasonable for doing this job, but can be difficult for the larger population as not many serve in

government. To serve, reality should be more comparable. In the future, it would be good to see more low-income perspective.

Councilor-Elect Bill Dwight stated a consideration should be a sliding scale based on income, or close to full-time, as lost dollars in compensation.

Jesus Leyva state that low income people have a barrier to serve, but should have a voice in the community.

Madeline Weaver Blanchette gave opening remarks regarding Question 4, per the slide.

Bill Ames stated that compensation of City Council and School Committee should be the same. The Mayor should not preside over City Council or School Committee. There should be separate powers between the Mayor (executive) and Council (legislative).

Councilor Gene Tacy state that the Mayor should not preside over the School Committee or City Council. This is how we interpret, not as it is written.

Councilor Marianne LaBarge stated that the mayor should not preside over the City Council. Easthampton has a president and vice-president; we need change and the City Council should be its' own body with power. This was suggested by the Charter Review Committee. School Committee deals with financial and should have chair and vice-chair; the Mayor should have a vote.

Wendy Foxmyn state that the mayor should not preside. There should be a council president and vice chair. Mayor should not chair the School Committee, but should have a vote.

Jesus Leyva stated the School Committee should not be chaired by the Mayor. The City Council should also not be chaired by the Mayor, and the Council President should be compensated more.

Alex Ghiselin stated the Mayor chairing the Council is not a power, but fosters culture mechanism. The Mayor is held responsible to push the conversation forward. A robust mayor is needed; a lack of leadership has sometimes inhibited public conversation.

Mary Kasper stated that the Mayor should not chair the City Council or School Committee. The Mayor should vote on the School Committee. There should be a City Council President and Vice President.

Mimi Odgers stated that the Mayor should not chair the City Council and School Committee. The Mayor had power, and we should build up a strong legislative body. The Mayor should be at the School Committee and vote, but not chair the meeting.

Stephen Herrell stated that the Mayor can guide and give input on issues, and the chair can limit public comment, move or ask for motions, and suspend rules. The Mayor is one of three who set the agenda and can be a critical part of the process. The Mayor should vote, but not chair the School Committee.

Deb Jacobs stated that if the City Council runs its' own meetings, that would be exciting. The Mayor should not preside and not vote. As in the Planning Board, the DPW should not be voting.

Jeff Massimino stated that the Mayor should not chair the City Council or School Committee. We should promote a separation of powers.

Former Mayor Mary Ford stated that South Hadley and Amherst do this. The process is clunky. The Mayor does not set the agenda of School Committee. We must understand the dynamics of the parents and teachers for input, and understand the positive effect of the Mayor on the School Committee. There is never the ability to railroad

through the School Committee. Do not make the mistake of a strong mayor by this Charter. Few are appointed by the Mayor, such as the Veterans agent. Look at the Charter and Ordinances and salaries. It is illogical to have the executive in the room with the legislature. The Mayor is minimized with budget cutting. In 1883, there would not have been a CEO and COO. Mayor Ford stated that Mayor Higgins got the Treasurer to change from elected to appointed through special legislation. It is mandatory that the position have professional skills and by ordinance have a direct relationship with the Mayor. Power is shaped by citizens and government relations. The screening committee ensures that appointments go to City Council. Northampton does not have a traditionally strong mayor. City Council president appoints the Council Committees. Department heads and administration shape how the City runs. Don't assume the legislature will balance out with separate powers. The City Council president has worked well with the Mayor and sponsored great things such as the Quinn Bill. When Councilors want to, they can use their power.

Former City Council President Pat Goggins called the City Charter 'a bastard charter' and changes should be made incrementally. There could be a "wicked council president fight" every two years. The City has benefitted from the long terms of Mayors Musante, Ford and Higgins, and relative stability.

David Stevens gave opening remarks regarding Question 5.

Councilor Gene Tacy stated that the City Clerk should be elected; the Mayor should not be the boss of any City Clerk. Remember the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the City Clerk is always willing to answer questions. She was the highest vote-getter. People appreciate that there is no power out of balance with this position.

Councilor Marianne LaBarge stated that the City Clerk should be elected. Many people agree with this as a Best Practice. There are 243 elected City Clerks in Massachusetts, out of 251 communities. The position is reputable, well-run and the Mayor should not be able to appoint this position.

Wendy Mazza, City Clerk read a prepared statement (attached).

David Stevens asked Ms. Mazza if she would like to see increased terms for this position. Ms. Mazza stated that the 2 year term is sufficient. Any position could be fired for performance. The position is mandated by State Law and there is enough watching from the State, another layer is not needed. The position also includes verification of campaign finances by law, so that all candidates for office must report to the City Clerk of their finances. The office of City Clerk handles birth, death, marriage, fish & game, gas storage, ordinances, and is the overseer of the Open Meeting Law. There are new birth and death certificate programs and a long list of what the office must follow by State statute or city ordinance.

Jesus Leyva stated that the City Clerk should be elected for the necessary checks and balances.

Mimi Odgers stated that the City Clerk is a position needing a qualified person. This position must work for the citizens.

Deb Jacobs stated that the City Clerk should be elected. This important office serves the citizens and needs to be independent.

Bill Ames stated that we must think of the job of the City Clerk, not the person incumbent. The Mayor can appoint, but the City Council must approve.

Pat Goggins stated that this was the most significant controversy of the 1972 commission on charter change. The City Clerk, at that time, took the minutes of the City Council meetings. That was changed. There is no need to change this further in the City Charter.

Wendy Foxmyn stated that there is no reason to appoint this position. The individual should be kept separate from the position, and this should not be changed unless the incumbent leaves or retires. This was also in the Best Practices report.

Mary Kasper state that this thinking worked well in relation to the Treasurer position; but City Clerks are the keepers of all historic records, as well.

Chris Powers stated that most people do not know what City Clerks do. Mr. Powers also submitted a statement (attached). An elected official is responsible to the electorate, while appointed respond to local pressures. A City Clerk with longevity has knowledge of all businesses, dog, taxi, and other licenses. Standard state salary is \$75,000. Ms. Mazza currently earns \$62,000.

William Scher noted that this change, if voted in, would not be done while Ms. Mazza is in office. The position could also be appointed with longer term such as a 5 year term.

David Stevens thanked all those who attended this forum for their opinions and comments.

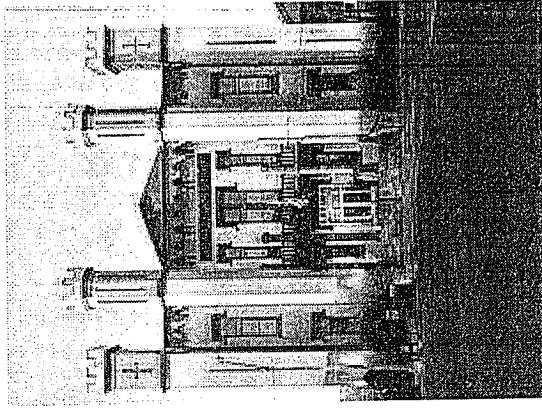
The Public Forum adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary L. Midura
Executive Secretary*

Northampton, Massachusetts

City Government

source: http://www.northamptonma.gov/aboutNorthampton/City_Government/



- Northampton was settled in 1654
- The City of Northampton was incorporated in 1884. City Government consists of an elected Mayor, City Council and City Clerk elected for two-year terms of office. The Mayor is the chief executive officer of the City. The City Council consists of nine members - seven ward councilors and two at-large councilors. The City is divided into seven wards with a roughly equal number of voters in each ward. The City Council is the legislative body for the City and is responsible for adopting the budget as prepared by the Mayor and for adopting City ordinances.

Definition of "Charter"

- "Charter, when used in connection with the operation of city and town government shall include a written instrument adopted, amended or revised pursuant to the provisions of chapter forty-three B which establishes and defines the structure of city and town government for a particular community and which may create local offices, and distribute powers, duties and responsibilities among local offices and which may establish and define certain procedures to be followed by the city or town government. Special laws enacted by the general court applicable only to one city or town shall be deemed to have the force of a charter and may be amended, repealed and revised in accordance with the provisions of chapter forty-three B unless any such special law contains a specific prohibition against such action." (MGL, Chapter 4, Section 7)

Source;

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=dorterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Local+Officials&L2=DLS+Newsroom&L3=City+%26+Town&sid=Ador&b=terminalcontent&f=dls_city_town_2010_charter_change&csid=Ador

City of Northampton, MA

THE CHARTER AND RELATED ACTS

CHARTER AND RELATED ACTS can be

found at <http://ecode360.com/NO2226>

HISTORY: Adopted by the House of Representatives 6-20-1883 (Acts of 1883, Chapter 250), approved 6-23-1883. Amendments noted where applicable.

Comprehensive Charter Reform

More comprehensive charter changes involving the overall structure of city government are typically addressed through a formal Charter Commission whose election itself must first be brought before the voters. The following are summaries of the two past comprehensive Northampton charter reviews.

Previous Efforts to Revise Charter-Comprehensive

source: [http://www.northamptonma.gov/charter/Past Comprehensive Charter Reviews/](http://www.northamptonma.gov/charter/Past%20Comprehensive%20Charter%20Reviews/)

1995 Charter Study Commission

In January of 1995, Mayor Mary Ford appointed a seven member Charter Study Committee to review the City's Charter and recommend whether or not the city should overhaul its charter or keep the current structure. The Committee met for several months, held a public hearing, and unanimously recommended that the election of a formal Charter Commission be placed on the November 7, 1995 ballot. A subsequent petition drive failed to collect the required number of signatures (15% of registered voters) to get the question on the ballot. Copies of the Committee recommendation with minutes and follow-up documents related to the ballot petition are downloadable below:

[1995 Charter Study Committee Recommendation](#)

[1995 Charter Study Follow-up](#)

1973 Charter Commission

In November 1971, a nine-member Charter Commission was elected by the voters of Northampton and spent the next 18 months reviewing the charter with the assistance of a paid consultant. The Charter Commission drafted a proposed "City Charter of the City of Northampton" and the question of whether or not to adopt the new charter was placed on the November 6, 1973 municipal election ballot. The voters of Northampton narrowly rejected adoption of a new charter by a 152-vote margin (Yes: 3,452 - No: 3604). A copy of the 1973 proposed charter with ballot question and summary are downloadable below:

[1973 Proposed Charter with Ballot Question](#)

Previous Efforts to Revise Charter-Incremental

source <http://ecode360.com/NO2226>

- Charter Review Committee
[http://www.northamptonma.gov/charter/Past Comprehensive Charter Reviews/](http://www.northamptonma.gov/charter/Past%20Comprehensive%20Charter%20Reviews/)

NORTHAMPTON CHARTER REVIEW HISTORY

- The City of Northampton has made several incremental changes to its Charter over the last decade through a series of special acts of the state legislature. These changes, which were first approved by a 2/3rds majority of City Council before being sent to the state legislature for its approval, include restructuring the Department of Public Works, making the City Treasurer position appointed rather than elected, moving the city out of the Civil Service System, and creating new positions and bodies like the Executive Secretary to the City Council and the Community Preservation Committee.

Previous Efforts to Revise Charter-Incremental

source <http://ecode360.com/NO2226>

continued

- Related Laws (§ C-45 — § C-56)

- *Editor's Note: Included in Art. II are special acts of the General Court which are current amendments to the Charter or special acts which may be of current interest to the user. It is by no means a comprehensive reproduction of all special acts related to the City and is presented merely for the convenience of the user. For a list of special acts related to Northampton, see Ch. A355 of the Code and for a list of general and special laws accepted by Northampton, see Ch. A360.*

- An Act Relating to the Election of Certain Officers in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Relative to the Power of the City Council of the City of Northampton, to Make and Establish Ordinances and By-Laws for Said City.

- An Act Establishing Smith's Agricultural School.

- An Act Relative to the Appointment of the City Solicitor of the City of Northampton.

- An Act Providing for Biennial Municipal Elections in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Changing the Time for the Holding of the Biennial Municipal Elections in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Establishing a Board of Public Works and a Department of Public Works in the City of

- Northampton.

- An Act Providing for the Nominating of Elective Municipal Officers in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Authorizing the Establishment of Residents Only Parking Areas in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Establishing a Board of Public Works and a Department of Public Works in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Relative to Civil Service Positions in the City of Northampton.

- An Act Exempting Certain Positions in the Fire Department in the City of Northampton From the Civil Service Law.

Periodic Review of the Charter by a Charter Review Committee

Northampton's Charter Review Committee 2010 <http://www.northamptonma.gov/charter/>

- "At least once in every 10 years, in every year ending in a zero, the City Council shall conduct a comprehensive review of the City Charter via a special Charter Review Committee comprised of three Councilors and four residents to be appointed by the City Council President. Within one year following the appointment of its members, said Committee shall file a written report to the City Council outlining its review and recommending any changes to the City Charter that it deems necessary or desirable for the effective function of government in the City of Northampton." Chapter 22b(4), Code of Ordinances

MEMBERS

Councilor Jesse M. Adams, Colleen Currie, Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge, Councilor David A. Murphy, Alan Seewald, Margaret Striebel, and Marc Warner*

(Appointed March 18, 2010, *Appointed September 16, 2010 to fill vacancy)

Source:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=dorterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Local+Officials&L2=DLS+N ewsroom&L3=City+%26+Town&sid=Ador&b=terminalcontent&f=dls city town 2010 chart er change&csid=Ador>

- Once a community has a charter, there is often a provision for the periodic appointment of a charter review committee. The committee undertakes an examination to determine the charter's ongoing utility and accuracy. Such committees do NOT have the powers, duties, and responsibilities of an elected charter commission. Such committees are formed to review the charter and to make recommendations to its appointing body (e.g., board of selectmen, city council) regarding the need for additions, deletions, clarifications, or other amendments that would improve the charter.

The Two Main Comprehensive

Charter Change Routes

The Home Rule Amendment to the state's constitution provides several routes for preparing or revising a charter. The most familiar are:

- Electing a home rule charter commission
- Petitioning the state legislature for special legislation (“the home rule petition”).

Option Two: "Home Rule Petition"

- A mayor and city council may appoint a study committee, and
- Set a timeline for such committee to report back to the appointing body.
- There is no requirement for printing and distribution of any proposal.
- There are no public hearing requirements, per se, although some study committees do provide a public forum for discussion of its recommendations, as well as town meetings, city council meetings, and the use of the city/town website to publicize their recommendations.
- After completing its work, the committee submits its recommendations to the local legislative body, which must decide whether to approve a "home rule petition." In cities, such approval must also have the concurrence of the mayor.
- If the petition is passed by the legislative body (and receives the mayor's approval, where necessary), it is then treated as a piece of proposed legislation – i.e., it is filed with the House or Senate clerk, assigned to a legislative committee, passed by the House and Senate, signed by the Governor, and returned to the city or town.
- In most instances where a significant change is proposed, the legislation will be subject to ratification by the municipality's voters prior to taking effect

Source: edited from

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=dorterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Local+Officials&L2=DLS+Newsroom&L3=City+%26+Town&sid=Ador&b=terminalcontent&f=dls_city_town_2010_charter_change&csid=Ador

Northampton Special Act Charter Drafting Committee is formed

Amended in City Council August 18, 2011

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council,

August 18, 2011

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Elections, Rules, Ordinances, Orders and
Claims

Ordered, that

WHEREAS, the Northampton Charter Review Committee, convened in April, 2010 pursuant to Chapter 22b (4) of the Ordinances, presented its final report to the City Council on April 7, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton City Council referred said report to its Committee on Elections, Rules, Ordinances, Orders, and Claims on April 7, 2011 for review and the development of a plan for the City Council to advance the final recommendations of the Charter Review Committee; and

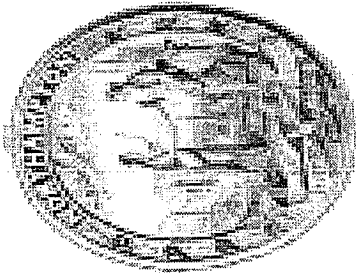
WHEREAS, the Committee on Elections, Rules, Ordinances, Orders, and Claims reviewed and discussed the Charter Review Committee's Final Report at its meetings held on May 9, 2011, June 13, 2011, and July 11, 2011, and organized a June 16, 2011 presentation to the full City Council on municipal charter revision assistance by Stephen McGoldrick, Deputy Director of the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that there is hereby established a Special Act Charter Drafting Committee consisting of nine members. Seven members, one from each ward of the City, shall be appointed by the City Council; and two members shall be residents of the City appointed by the Mayor. Said Committee shall draft a Special Act Charter for the City for submission to the state legislature and placement on the November 6, 2012 state ballot subject to its approval by a two-thirds majority of the City Council.

In drafting said Special Act Charter the Committee shall take into consideration and work with the recommendations contained in the March 7, 2011 Final Report of the Northampton Charter Review Committee and consult with the former members of that body as needed. The Committee shall meet in open session, hold public hearings, and shall submit its draft Special Act Charter to the City Council for its consideration no later than January 19, 2012. Upon the submission of the draft Special Act Charter to the City Council, the Special Act Charter Drafting Committee shall be dissolved.

In accordance with the final recommendation of the Northampton Charter Review Committee regarding a budget and consultants, the Mayor and City Council shall appropriate funding in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the purposes of entering into an intergovernmental service agreement with the Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management at the University of Massachusetts Boston to assist the Special Act Drafting Committee in completing its charge. The city shall also provide the Committee with access to meeting space and administrative support as needed.

Northampton Special Act Charter Drafting Committee Members



Northampton Special Act Charter Drafting Committee

David P. Stevens, Chair

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Madeline Warner Blanchette

Marc Warner

Richard Greene

Todd Thompson

William Scher

Thomas Miranda

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Stephen McGoldrick, Deputy Director, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, University of
Massachusetts



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Northampton Special Act Charter
Drafting Committee

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Stephen McGoñick, Deputy Director, Edward J. Collins, Jr., Center for Public Management, University of Massachusetts

Public Forum

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6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,
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1. Should the City Council/School Committee structure change? Should there be more or less Ward Councilors, At-Large Councilors, School Committee members or At-Large School Committee members? Should City Council/School Committee be elected for 2-year or 4-year terms? Should City Council/School Committee have term limits (i.e., no more than two 4-year terms)?
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3. Should the Mayor be elected for a 2-year or 4-year term? Should the Mayor have term limits (i.e., no more than two 4-year terms)?
4. Should the Mayor preside over City Council/School Committee meetings?
5. Should the City Clerk be elected or appointed?

No votes will be taken.

NEW BUSINESS – Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

Please visit [http://www.northamptonma.gov/citycouncil/Special Act Charter Drafting Committee/](http://www.northamptonma.gov/citycouncil/SpecialActCharterDraftingCommittee/) for more information.

If you are unable to attend this Public Forum:

To submit questions and/or comments regarding the Charter, please email mmidura@northamptonma.gov or deliver or mail written comments to Mary L. Midura, Executive Secretary, City Council office, 210 Main Street, Room 16, Northampton, MA 01060.



Northampton Special Act Charter
Drafting Committee

David P. Stevens, Chair
Geoff L. Perleman
Madeline Farmer-Blanchette
Marc Hamer
Richard Greene

Todd Thompson
William Selzer
Thomas Mincoda
Megan Murphy Wolf

Stephen McGoldrick, Deputy Director, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, University of
Massachusetts

Public Forum

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,

Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

1. Powers of the Executive Branch
 - Communications; Special Meetings
 - Approval of Mayor, Veto
 - Temporary Absence of the Mayor
 - Delegation of Authority by Mayor
 - Vacancy in Office of Mayor
 2. Administrative Organization and Financial Procedures
 - Methods of establishing and modifying the administrative organization including boards and commissions.
 - Budgeting, financial forecasting, capital planning and other financial procedures.
 3. Elections and Citizen Relief Mechanisms
 - Nomination and election procedures.
 - Procedures for free petition, initiative petition, referendum and recall provisions.
 4. **NEW BUSINESS** – *Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.*
- Adjourn

Proposed Timeline

- Drafting Committee Completes report by mid January 2012
- City Council and Mayor advance proposed legislation to Beacon Hill for their review and approval by mid-March 2012
- Governor reviews and approves
- Secretary of State approves for November 2012 ballot
- Voters decide to approve or reject on November 6, 2012

Q:1 Current Structure of City Council & School Committee

Current:

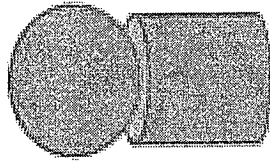
- 9 members each: 1 representative for each of 7 wards, plus 2 city-wide "at-large" representatives
- Each ward contains 2 precincts of approximately 2000 residents. (Precincts cannot be bigger than 4000 residents under state law.)

Questions:

- **Should we reduce the number of representatives on each body?**
- *Possible benefits: Fewer uncontested races, save money on compensation, allow for increased compensation.*
- **Should we increase the number of representatives on each body?**
- *Possible benefits: Make councilors more accessible, increase citizen participation, reduce workload.*
- **Should we keep the structure as is?**

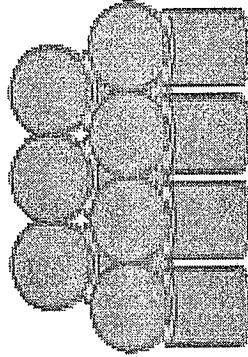
Q:2 Term Lengths and Limits

Current Structure:

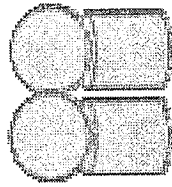


Mayor:

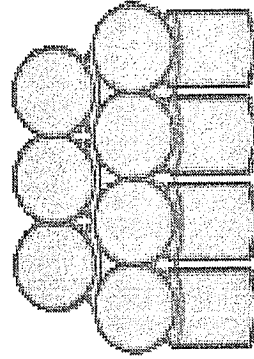
2 year term, no term limits



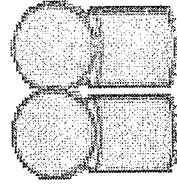
7 Wards



2 At-Large



7 Wards



2 At-Large

School Committee:

Ward reps = 4 year term

At-large Reps = 2 year term

Staggered elections, no term limits

Q:2 Term Lengths and Limits continued

2-YEAR TERM VS. 4-YEAR TERM: CHOICES TO CONSIDER

Accountability to the public
Impact on decision-making by elected official
Time campaigning vs. time governing
Attracting new candidates and ideas vs. continuity and stability

Questions:

- Does a 4-year or a 2-year term attract the best candidates?
- Is a candidate who must run for office every 2 years more accountable to voters?
- Does a 4 year term give more time to govern and less raising money and campaigning?

TERM LIMITS: CHOICES TO CONSIDER

Concentration of executive power
Depriving choice to voters

Questions:

- Do term limits prevent entrenched political ideology, or should the voters decide when it's time for new representation?

Q 3: Current Compensation of Elected Officials

Mayor: \$80,000 salary plus employee benefits

Councilors: \$5,000 (Council President: \$5,500) plus benefits (Cost: \$45,500 in salaries; \$38,000 in benefits)

School Committee members: \$2,500 plus benefits (Cost: \$22,500 in salaries; \$16,769 in benefits)

Questions:

- Should the Mayor's salary be increased?
- Should the Councilor and School Committee member stipends be increased?
- Should part-time Councilors and School Committee members receive employee benefits (health, life, etc)?

Q:4 TO PRESIDE OR NOT TO PRESIDE?

Current model = strong executive power, weak legislature power

- Mayor **presides** over School Committee meetings & **votes**
- Mayor **presides** over City Council meetings & does **not vote**

School Committee & City Council alternative:

- a. Mayor does **not preside**, does **not vote**
 - Advantages: ↑ legislative power, ↓ executive power, ↑ separation of powers
 - Disadvantage: In the past, Northampton voters have favored strong mayor

Additional School Committee alternatives:

- b. Mayor does **not preside**, does **vote**
 - Advantage: ↑ legislative power
 - Disadvantage: Executive still votes in legislative committee
- c. Mayor **presides**, does **not vote**
 - Advantage: Mayor keeps order of meetings, ↓ executive power
 - Disadvantage: Mayor leading legislative committee

Q:5 Should the City Clerk be Elected or Appointed?

Elected	Appointed
Avoids Patronage	Ensures strong qualifications
Allows for an Independent Department	Better coordination with city government
Directly Accountable to the Voters	Accountable to voters via the Mayor and/or City Council
May require on the job training	Necessary skills best assessed during in-depth selection process
Much of the job description prescribed by state and municipal statute	The Skill Set needed is not necessarily the same skill set needed to be an elected politician



Northampton Special Act Charter
Drafting Committee

David P. Stevens, Chair
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Stephen McGoldrick, Deputy Director, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, University of Massachusetts

Public Forum

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

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Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

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3. Elections and Citizen Relief Mechanisms
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4. NEW BUSINESS – Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.

Adjourn



David P. Stevens, Chair
Gail L. Perlman
Madeline Warner Blanchette
Marc Warner
Richard Greene

Northampton Special Act Charter Drafting Committee

Todd Thompson
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Thomas Miranda
Megan Murphy Wolf

Stephen McGoldrick, Deputy Director, Edward J. Collins, Jr. Center for Public Management, University of
Massachusetts

- Please visit

<http://www.northamptonma.gov/citycouncil/Special Act Charter Drafting Committee/> for more information.

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Public Forum

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

1. Should the City Council/School Committee structure change? Should there be more or less Ward Councilors, At-Large Councilors, School Committee members or At-Large School Committee members?

Name	Address
1. <i>Maurice La Page Ward 6 City Councilor</i>	<i>La Page</i>
2. <i>Wendy F.</i>	
3. <i>Jessie Leyla</i>	
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***We have set aside thirty minutes for each of tonight's 5 questions. If you are able to present your thoughts because of time limitations we ask you to submit your views in writing: To submit questions and/or comments regarding the Charter, please email mmidura@northamptonma.gov or deliver or mail written comments to Mary L. Midura, Executive Secretary, City Council office, 210 Main Street, Room 16, Northampton, MA 01060**

Public Forum

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

2. Should the Mayor, City Council/School Committee be elected for 2-year or 4-year terms? Should the Mayor, City Council/School Committee have term limits (i.e., no more than two 4-year terms)?

Name	Address
1. Bill Ames	26 Crescent St.
2. W. Amos La Beye Wall City Council	
3. Wendy T.	Leeds
4. Jesus Leyva	
5. Alex Guschin	1601 Bowers Rd
6. Mary Casper	106 High St
7. Claudia F. Letco	40 Valley St
8. Mimi Odgus	97 Glendale
9. Barry Barry Hirsh	36 MASSAHOSETT ST
10. Des Sados	82 Grover Ave
11.* Alan Seena	60 Revell Ave
12.*	
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Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

3. Should Mayor, City Council/School Committee compensation and /or benefits increase or decrease?

Name	Address
1. Gene Tracy	158 No. Maple St.
2. Marie LeBeau	City Council member
3. Wendy F.	Leeds
4. B. J. Rott	86 Fernbrook Dr, 121.
5. Mimi Odgers	97 Glendale Rd.
6. Stephen Herrell	474 Elm St.
7. Emily Olivas	914 Glendale Rd.
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Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

4. Should the Mayor preside over City Council/School Committee meetings?

Name	Address
1. Bill Ames	26 Crescent St.
2. George Tacy	158 No. Maple St.
3. Marianne La Buge	City Council Ward 6
4. Wendy F.	Leeds
5. Jesus Lopez	37 Holbrook St.
6. Alan Chiselin	164 Bowerside
7. Mary Kasper	106 Ash St.
8. Mimi Odgers	97 Glendale Rd.
9. Stephen Herrell	474 Elm St.
10. Barry Hirsch	36 Massachusetts St.
11. * Dex Sacary	82 Grove Ave. Leven
12. * Alan Seewald	60 Revell Ave
13. * Jeff Massimino	Northampton
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ATTENDING 11-15-11: #4 Q.

ROCKIE MISA AS WEA, M'Hampton

~~Elizabeth Silver 62 Willow St Florence~~

→ ? inside
→

Public Forum

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street,
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building, Northampton, MA

Requesting Public Comment for Proposed Changes to the City Charter – including, but not limited to:

5. Should the City Clerk be elected or appointed?

Name	Address
✓ 1. Gene Tracy	154 No Maple St. e
✓ 2. Marianne LaBerge City Council Ward 6 e	
✓ 3. Wendy Maggi City Clerk	114 Evergreen Rd H. 304, Leeds e
✓ 4. Vesly LaJa	
5. Benny Patel	88 ABBOTSWICK DR, FL. e
6. Alex Christen	164 BLOFISIDE DR
✓ 7. Mimi Odgers	
8. Des Jacobs	87 Grove Ave Leeds e
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11. * Bill Ames	
12. * Paul Giffin	
13. * Gary Roth	
14. * Wendy Foxyni	
15. *	
16. * Mary Kasper	
17. * Chris Bousi	
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November 15, 2011

Comments for Public forum held by the Northampton Special Act Charter Drafting Committee

Wendy Foxmyn, lived in Northampton 17 years....western MA resident 35 years. I worked for the city a little over 20 years ago, running a grant program, working with Mayor Musante. I was apptd. by Mayor Ford to serve on the task force that recommended the creation of the city's Human Rights Commission. Most recently, I chaired the Solid Waste Reduction and Management Task Force and before that served on the Ad-Hoc Committee on Best Practices in Northampton Decision-Making. We are here tonight as the direct result of one of the strongest recommendations of the Best Practices Committee: creating a new city charter.

More background, mostly for context purposes: I've worked as a town administrator, assistant town administrator or interim administrator in over a dozen western Mass. communities. I was an elected member of the Greenfield Town Council, serving on the finance committee as well as other council committees, other town and regional boards and committees and was elected to the first of 3 Franklin County Charter Commissions. I have been providing municipal and non-profit consulting services over 20 years. *I am an Associate of the Collins Center, although I have not been actively engaged with their project work.*

I attended the first Charter Review meeting and their public hearing and engaged in active conversation with the committee at those meetings.

I am on your email distribution list and have read all the distributed materials I've received, with some exceptions for items with which I am already familiar.

In response to tonight's topics:

1. Structure - I think the current size and structure of both the CC and the SC works well in representing the population. This is good, as the alternative for re-drawing the wards is enormously cumbersome, esp. if your intention is to enact this as a Special Act Charter.

2. Terms - My experience with towns is 3-year terms work well. I think 2 is too short and 4 is too long. 4 years is daunting for a candidate considering running for councilor or school committee. I don't know the structural difficulties relative to elections, staggered terms, etc., but if those could be worked out, I believe 3-year terms for mayor, council and school committee would be best. If given the choice between 2 and 4, I'd prefer 4 but would feel even more strongly about term limits.

Term Limits: 9 - 12 years, depending on the terms (3 or 4); basically, 3 terms. I had not planned on discussing reasons for supporting term limits, but will do so if the committee wishes to hear more on that issue.

3. Compensation - I don't have a strong opinion about the CC or the mayor's current compensation. I believe it is rare for school committees to receive any compensation, so I'd like this committee to review and compare this with other municipalities. I hate to begrudge anybody fair compensation, particularly in this environment of reduced or stagnant pay, lack of jobs and a volatile health insurance scenario, BUT I think, esp. given our very tight municipal budget, health insurance should NOT be available to councilors and school committee members. This is a tremendous expense and not predictable, as well. I communicated with Sen. Rosenberg about legislation he filed several years ago that would

have allowed local officials' access to their municipality's health insurance with full payment by the elected official. I have not heard from him or his staff, but I believe this legislation has not gone anywhere. There are various reasons why this option, although sounding good, may be infeasible.

I have been asked to run for council several times. I must admit the health care coverage would be a big draw for me. Not to diminish their hard work, but I know it has been a consideration for some current councilors, perhaps school committee members, as well, and others who have previously served. This is not a good reason to run for office.

4. Mayor's presiding – I agree with what I hear as a general consensus for the Mayor to NOT preside over CC meetings. I have mixed thoughts about the Mayor presiding over the SC, but all things considered, I think it would work better to have an SC member chair and preside, with the Mayor having full voting powers. On a related note, the current situation with the CC President holding the mayor's seat when the mayor is absent or vacates, poses both a political perception problem, as we've seen, and a checks and balances problem relative to CC and Mayor votes and vetoes. I hope you will examine this issue.

5. City Clerk – I have mixed thoughts about this. I strongly supported the change of the Treasurer's position from elected to appt'd. Clearly, if the committee recommends changing the Clerk to an appointed position, it should happen upon the vacancy of the incumbent.

I have concerns about city appointments in general...dept. heads, employees, and boards and committees. I believe dept. heads and other employees should be hired, promoted, etc. via a professional process, strictly following personnel policies and ordinances. Most importantly, we should be looking for the best person for a position, with lesser consideration for their relationship to the city (i.e., already an employee, a resident, friend of mayor or councilor, etc).

This leads me to two other issues I offer for your consideration:

The Town of Amherst's most recent, and failed, attempt at a charter change proposed a Town Manager/Mayor/Council form of government. I didn't like this proposal when it was voted upon, but have reconsidered and believe this would be a good model for Northampton. As a professional administrator I know the skills and knowledge town and city managers must possess and the ethical framework they are sworn to. I think we have been lucky to elect smart, hard-working mayors, but they must balance the often competing factors of sound management and politics. In this Manager/Mayor scenario, the Mayor would be weakened, but still perform the important work of representing the city locally, regionally, in Boston, and Washington and be a leader in city policy development. They could be directly elected or elected by the City Council. I don't believe your committee or the predecessor review committee has considered this Manager/Mayor option, but I hope you will, at least, reflect on the issues it raises.

Lastly, I hope you will all become familiar with the Best Practices Committee's report and recommendations. I believe there are a number of policies and procedures, sample documents, and structural recommendations that could find their way, if not into a charter document verbatim, into important tangential recommendations and, at the very least, your thoughts and intentions as you move through your work.

Thank you.

Top 10 Reasons Why City Clerks Should Be Elected

... and be responsible to the **citizens** for their office.

The small town tradition of having an elected City Clerk is one that we want to retain. It is a tradition that has stood the test of time because it works! Besides maintaining the small town heritage, the elected Clerk has some pragmatic advantages over an appointed Clerk.

Although elected clerks are department heads, they are self-governing in their actions and are able to appoint an Assistant Clerk of choice to assure the independence and integrity of both the office and the work involved. The City Clerk knows what the staffing needs are and is best qualified to make such appointments. The Assistant City Clerk may be called upon, in the absence of the City Clerk, to act as the City Clerk would. In the roll of Registrar of Voters it is vital that the sanctity of the ballot be maintained.

The Office of the City Clerk is a hybrid of City and State responsibilities, and would function less efficiently if run directly by the Mayor and or City Council. Electing a City Clerk avoids the cronyism, or "politics" of having an appointment made by the Mayor or Council. Furthermore, we have a sensitive role in the administration of elections that would be ill-served by being beholden to those who are seeking re-election.

An elected clerk is directly accountable to the people of the community and thus serves at the will of the people, not at the direction of a 9 member City Council or Mayor. This is especially important during elections, when the independence of the Clerk's office is vital. An appointed clerk comes with an inherent conflict of interest in this area.

The decision of electing a City Clerk involves an electorate of several thousand people as opposed to an appointment made by only 9 members of the City Council or Mayor.

Elected City Clerks are more service-oriented; they often are more accommodating to the people who have elected them. Such as a panicked citizen who needs a copy of their birth certificate on a Holiday weekend.

Appointed employees, after six months on the job, should only be removed "with cause"; requiring proper personnel management skills on the part of the Council or Mayor. An elected clerk can be removed from office by the people at an election for any reason.

Elected City and Town Clerks have employment longevity that affords them on-the-job training.

When combined with the information gained from Clerk's Conferences, this a formidable amount of knowledge regarding what is required by law. It would be untenable for the Council or Mayor to manage a department with insufficient knowledge of what the job entails.

An additional layer of management has never resulted in increase efficiency. EVER

Elected City/Town Clerks have served the Cities and Towns of the Commonwealth admirably for many years. There is no valid reason to take this responsibility and right away from the People.

The people's power should never, ever be taken out of the hands of "the Many" and placed in the hands of "a Few"

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Elected Clerk Positions--243 within Massachusetts

City or Town	Clerk Name		Phone Number	Title
Blackstone	Staples	Marianne	508-876-5116	Town Clerk
Boxborough	Markiewicz	Liz	978-263-1116, x117	Town Clerk
Freetown	Brown, MMC, CMMC	Jacqueline	508-644-2201 ext 2	Town Clerk
Lakeville	Tracy	Janet	508-946-8814	Town Clerk
Mashpee	Dami, MMC, CMMC	Deborah	508-539-1400 x534	Town Clerk
Medway	White, CMMC	Maryjane	508-533-3204	Town Clerk
Norton	Sicard	Danielle M.	508.285.0232	Town Clerk
Stockbridge	Hunt	Linda	413-298-4170, x 251	Town Clerk
Westminster	MacAloney	Denise	978-874-7406	Town Clerk
Abington	Adams	Linda C.	781-982-2112	Town Clerk
Belchertown	Barnett	William	413 323-0281	Town Clerk
Cheshire	Emerson	Christine B.	413-743-1690, x22	Town Clerk
Hadley	Spanknebel	Jessica	413-584-1590	Town Clerk
Medfield	Mayer, CMC, CMMC	Carol A.	508-906-3024	Town Clerk
Middlefield	Batorski	Marjorie	413-623-2079	Town Clerk
Milford	Hennessy Neves	Amy	508 634-2307	Town Clerk
Montague	Bourbeau	Deb	413-863-3200, x-104	Town Clerk
Natick	Packer	Diane	508.647.6432	Town Clerk
New Marlborough	Chretien	Katherine M.	413-229-8278	Town Clerk
Peru	Richards	S. Christine	413-655-8312	Town Clerk
Shutesbury	Bracebridge	Leslie	413.259.1204	Town Clerk
Sturbridge	Murawski, MMC/CMMC	Lorraine	508-347-2510	Town Clerk
Upton	McElreath	Kelly	508-529-3565	Town Clerk
West Tisbury	Whiting	Tara J.	508-696-0148	Town Clerk
Williamsburg	Lessard	Brenda	413-268-8402	Town Clerk
Acushnet	Labonte	Pamela	508-998-0215	Town Clerk
Adams	Hutchinson	Paul	413-743-8320	Town Clerk
Alford	Doyle	Paula	413-528-4536	Town Clerk
Aquinnah	Feltz	Carolyn	508-645-2306	Town Clerk
Arlington	Lucarelli	Stephanie	781-316-3071	Town Clerk
Ashburnham	Ramsdell, CMMC	Linda A.	978-827-4100, Ext. 114	Town Clerk
Ashby	Pease	Lorraine	978-286-2424 ext 10	Town Clerk
ATTLEBORO	Shockroo	Betty	508-223-2222 Ext 3113	City Clerk
Avon	Kopke	V. Jean	508-588-0414	Town Clerk
Ayer	Canney	John	978-772-8215	Town Clerk
Barnstable	Hutchenrider, MMC, CMMC	Linda E.	508.862.4044	Town Clerk
Barre	Glidden, CMC, CMMC	Ellen M.	978-355-5003 EXT 5	Town Clerk
Becket	Roberts	George	413-623-8934, Ext. 11	Town Clerk
Bellingham	Odabashian	Ann L.	508-657-2830	Town Clerk
Belmont	Cushman	Ellen O'Brien	617-993-2604	Town Clerk
Berkley	Awalt, CMMC	Carolyn	508-822-3348	Town Clerk
Berlin	Salls	Eloise E.	978-838-2931	Town Clerk
Bernadston	Knight	Judy	413-648-5408	Town Clerk
Billerica	Schult	Shirley	978-671-0924	Town Clerk
Blandford	Iglesias	Staci	413-848-2782	Town Clerk
Bolton	Powell	Pamela	978-799-2771	Town Clerk
Bourne	Johnson	Barry H.	508.759.0600, Ext 505	Town Clerk
Boxford	Phelan	Robin	978-887-6000, x151	Town Clerk
Boylston	Bourassa	Sandra	508-869-2234	Town Clerk
Bridgewater	Adams	Ronald	508-697-0922	Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Elected Clerk Positions--243 within Massachusetts

City or Town	Clerk Name		Phone Number	Title
Brimfield	Beall, CMMC	Pamela E.	413-245-4100, x7	Town Clerk
Brookfield	Seery	Michael	508-867-2930, x 12	Town Clerk
Brookline	Ward	Pat	617-730-2010	Town Clerk
Buckland	Purinton	Janice	413-625-8572	Town Clerk
Burlington	Warfield	Amy E.	781-270-1660	Town Clerk
Canton	Kenney	Tracy K.	781-821-5013	Town Clerk
Carlisle	Hinton	Charlene M.	978-369-6155	Town Clerk
Charlemont	Wagner	Linda Brown	413-625-6157	Town Clerk
Charlton	Nichols	Susan J.	508-248-2249	Town Clerk
Chester	Baldasaro	Cheryl A.	413-354-6603	Town Clerk
Chesterfield	Wickland	Sandy	413-296-4741	Town Clerk
Clarksburg	Jammalo	Carol	413-663-8255	Town Clerk
Clinton	Boyce	Phillip R.	978-365-4119	Town Clerk
Cohasset	St. Pierre	Carol	781-383-4100	Town Clerk
Colrain	Coburn	Leah	413 624-3454	Town Clerk
Conway	Knowlton	Virginia A.	413-369-4235, x4	Town Clerk
Cummington	Forgea	Susan	413-634-5458	Town Clerk
Dalton	Suriner	Barbara L.	413-684-6111, x 14	Town Clerk
Dartmouth	Medeiros	Lynn M.	508-910-1800	Town Clerk
Dedham	Munchbach	Paul	781-751-9200	Town Clerk
Dennis	Bunce, CMC	Theresa	508.760.6115	Town Clerk
Dighton	Medeiros	Sue	508-669-5411	Town Clerk
Douglas	Furno	Christine E. G.	508-476-4000, x 355	Town Clerk
Dover	Clough, CMMC	Barrie H.	508-785-0032 X 226	Town Clerk
Dudley	Finn	Ora E.	508-949-8004	Town Clerk
Dunstable	Skerrett, CMMC	Carol A.	978.648.4514, Ext. 222	Town Clerk
Duxbury	Oates	Nancy M.	781-934-1100 x 4	Town Clerk
East Bridgewater	Weidenfeller, CMC, CMMC	Marcia	508-378-1606	Town Clerk
East Brookfield	Allen	Virginia	508-867-6769, x 301	Town Clerk
Eastham	Lamperti	Lillian	508-240-5900 X 223	Town Clerk
Edgartown	Williams	Wanda M.	508-627-6110	Town Clerk
Egremont	Muskrat	Margaret A.	413-528-0182	Town Clerk
Erving	Newton	Richard	413-422-2800 x102	Town Clerk
Fairhaven	Lowney	Eileen M.	508-979-4025	Town Clerk
Falmouth	Palmer, CMC, CMMC	Michael	508-495-7353	Town Clerk
Florida	Brown	Lisa H	413-664-6685	Town Clerk
Foxborough	Cutler, Jr.	Robert J.	508-543-1208	Town Clerk
Framingham	Mulvey	Valerie	508-532-5521	Town Clerk
Franklin	Pellegri	Deborah	508-520-4900	Town Clerk
GARDNER	Agnelli	Alan L.	978-630-4008	City Clerk
Georgetown	McGrane	Janice	978-352-5711	Town Clerk
Gill	Hodsdon Mayo	Lynda	413-863-8103	Town Clerk
Goshen	Polwrek	Donna	413-268-8236	Town Clerk
Gosnold	Wright	Lisa	508-990-7408	Town Clerk
Grafton	Clark, CMC	Maureen A.	508-839-5335, x195	Town Clerk
Granby	Kelly-Regan	Katherine	413-467-7178	Town Clerk
Granville	Sussmann	Ann	413-357-8585	Town Clerk
Groton	Bouchard	Michael F.	978-448-1100	Town Clerk
Groveland	Brodie	Ann	978-556-7200, x221	Town Clerk
Halifax	Gaynor	Barbara J.	781.293.7970	Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Elected Clerk Positions--243 within Massachusetts

City or Town	Clerk Name		Phone Number	Title
Hamilton	Wetson	Jane	978.468.5570	Town Clerk
Hampden	Wiseman	Eve	413-566-2151, x103	Town Clerk
Hancock	Burdick	Linda C.	413-738-5225	Town Clerk
Hanover	Shea	Robert C.	781-826-2691	Town Clerk
Hanson	Sloan, CMC	Elizabeth	781-293-2772	Town Clerk
Hardwick	Roberts	Paula L.	413-477-6700	Town Clerk
Harvard	Vellante, MMC, CMMC	Janet	978-456-4100 X 316	Town Clerk
Harwich	Doucette	Anita N.	508-430-7516	Town Clerk
Hatfield	Slysz	G. Louise	413-247-0492	Town Clerk
Hawley	Stetson	Cynthia	413-339-5518	Town Clerk
Heath	Sumner	Hilma A.	413-337-4934	Town Clerk
Hingham	McCracken	Eileen	781-741-1410	Town Clerk
Hinsdale	Frissell	Dawn L.	413-655-2301	Town Clerk
Holbrook	Tarara	Jeanmarie	781-767-4314	Town Clerk
Holland	LaPlante	Kristin	413-245-7108, x 12	Town Clerk
Holliston	Greendale	Elizabeth T.	508-429-0601	Town Clerk
HOLYOKE	Egan	Susan	413-322-5520	City Clerk
Hopedale	Jacaruso	Janet	508 634 2203 x215	Town Clerk
Hopkinton	Click, CMMC, CMC	Ann M.	508-497-9710	Town Clerk
Hubbardston	Green	Joyce E.	978-928-5244	Town Clerk
Hull	Bennett	Janet	781-925-2262	Town Clerk
Huntington	Donovan-Hall	Pamela	413-667-3186	Town Clerk
Kingston	Murzyn, MMC/CMMC	Mary Lou	781-585-0502	Town Clerk
Lanesborough	Sczopaniak	Joe	413-442-1351	Town Clerk
Leicester	Davis	Deborah K.	508-892-7011	Town Clerk
Leverett	Stratford	Lisa	413-548-9150	Town Clerk
Leyden	Hardesty	Bob	413-774-7769	Town Clerk
Lincoln	Brooks	Susan F.	781-259-2607	Town Clerk
Littleton	Crory	Diane	978-540-2401	Town Clerk
Ludlow	Gibbons	Laurie	413-583-5600, x230	Town Clerk
Lunenburg	Herrick	Kathryn M	978-582-4131	Town Clerk
Marblehead	Michaud	Robin A.	781-631-0528	Town Clerk
Marion	Pickles	Ray	508-748-3502	Town Clerk
Marshfield	Picco	Patricia A.	781-834-5540	Town Clerk
Mattapoissett	Sullivan, CMC, CMMC	Barbara A.	508-758-4103 x207	Town Clerk
Mendon	Bonderenko, CMC, CMMC	Margaret	508-473-1085	Town Clerk
Merrimac	True	Patricia E.	978-346-8013	Town Clerk
Middleton	George	Sarah B.	978-774-6927	Town Clerk
Millis	Hardin, Esq.	Lisa Jane	508-376-7046	Town Clerk
Millville	Lancot	Marcia	508-883-5849	Town Clerk
Milton	Mullen, Jr.	James G.	617-898-4859	Town Clerk
Monroe	Rushford	Krisa	413-424-5272	Town Clerk
Monson	Morrell	Nancy C.	413-267-4115	Town Clerk
Monterey	Thorpe	Linda	413-528-5175	Town Clerk
Montgomery	Murphy	Judy	413-848-2804	Town Clerk
Nahant	Barile	Margaret R.	781-581-0018	Town Clerk
Nantucket	Stover, MMC, CMMC	Catherine Flanagan	508.228.7217	Town & County Clerk
Needham	Eaton, MMC, CMMC	Theodora K.	781-455-7510, 2	Town Clerk
New Ashford	DeMeyer	Richard J.	413-458-5671	Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Elected Clerk Positions--243 within Massachusetts

City or Town	Clerk Name		Phone Number	Title
New Braintree	Bennett	Jessica	508-867-4952	Town Clerk
New Salem	Senflug	Stacy	978-544-2731	Town Clerk
Newbury	Haley	Leslie	978-465-0862 Ext. 315	Interim Town Clerk
Norfolk	Dooley	Shawn	508-528-1400	Town Clerk
North Attleboro	Gould	Maxwell	508-699-0142	Town Clerk
North Brookfield	Buzzell	Sheila A.	508-867-0203	Town Clerk
NORTHAMPTON	Mazza	Wendy	413-587-1224	City Clerk
Northfield	Zukowski	Gail V.	413.498.2901, x 12	Town Clerk
Norwell	Anderson	Patricia M.	781-659-8072	Town Clerk
Oak Bluffs	Ratcliff	Deborah deB	508-693-5515	Town Clerk
Oakham	Mardirosian	Christine	508-882-5549, x305	Town Clerk
Orange	Blackmer, MMC, CMMC	Nancy M.	978-544-1100,x101	Town Clerk
Palmer	Donovan CMMC	Patricia	413-283-2608	Town Clerk
Paxton	Stone	Susan	508-799-7347, x 13	Town Clerk
Pelham	Martell	Kathy	413-253-7129	Town Clerk
Pembroke	Smith	Mary Ann	781-293-7211	Town Clerk
Pepperell	Sauer	Jeffrey W.	978-433-0339	Town Clerk
Petersham	Cooley	Diana	978-724-6649	Town Clerk
Phillipston	Foley	Karin L.	978-249-1733	Town Clerk
PITTSFIELD	Tyer	Linda	413-499-9361	City Clerk
Plainfield	Thatcher	Theresa	413-634-5582	Town Clerk
Plainville	Robertson	Ellen	508-695-3010 X19	Town Clerk
Plympton	Butler	Nancy	781-585-3220	Town Clerk
Randolph	Howard	Brian P.	781-961-0900	Town Clerk
Raynham	Lounsbury	Helen B.	508-824-2700	Town Clerk
Rehoboth	Carmichael	Kathleen J.	508-252-6502	Town Clerk
Richmond	Zahn	Katherine	413-698-3315	Town Clerk
Rochester	Parker	Naida L.	508-763-3871	Town Clerk
Rockland	Kaszanek	Mary Pat	781-871-1892	Town Clerk
Rockport	Frithsen, CMMC	Frederick C.	978.546.6894	Town Clerk
Rowe	Silva	Carrie Y.	413-339-5520	Town Clerk
Rowley	Hazen, CMC/CMMC	Susan G.	978-948-2081	Town Clerk
Royalston	Mangum	Melanie A.	978-249-0493	Town Clerk
Russell	Hardie	Virginia M.	413-862-6207	Town Clerk
Rutland	Hayden, CMMC	Sally M.	508-886-4104	Town Clerk
Sandisfield	Harasyco	Dolores	413-258-4711	Town Clerk
Sandwich	White	Taylor	508-888-0340	Town Clerk
Savoy	Smith	Brenda	413-743-3759	Town Clerk
Scituate	Brown	Bernice B.	781-545-8743	Town Clerk
Seekonk	Parker	Janet	508-336-2920	Town Clerk
Sharon	Chused, CMC	Marlene B.	781.784.1500, Ext. 111	Town Clerk
Shelburne	Neeley	Beverly	413-625-0300	Town Clerk
Sherborn	Marple	Carole B	508-651-7853	Town Clerk
Shirley	McDougall	Amy R.	978-425-2600, x205	Town Clerk
Somerset	Burge	Dolores	508-646-2818	Town Clerk
South Hadley	Hamlin	Carlene C.	413-538-5023	Town Clerk/Treasurer
Southampton	Couture	Eileen	413-527-8392	Town Clerk
Southborough	Berry	Paul J	508-485-0710 ext 5	Town Clerk
Southbridge	Daoust, CMC, CMMC	Madaline	508-764-5408	Town Clerk

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Elected Clerk Positions--243 within Massachusetts

City or Town	Clerk Name		Phone Number	Title
Spencer	Mulhall	Jean	508-885-7000, x150	Town Clerk
Stoneham			781-279-2650	Town Clerk
Sunderland	Houle, MMC/CMMC	Wendy	413-665-1442	Town Clerk
Swansea	Taveira	Susan E.	508-678-9389	Town Clerk
Templeton	Harris	Carol	978-939-8466	Town Clerk
Tewksbury	Graffeo	Denise	978-640-4355	Town Clerk
Tisbury	Mudge	Marion A.	508-696-4215	Town Clerk
Tolland	Voudren	Susan H.	413-258-4068	Town Clerk
Topsfield	Burke	Paula M.	978-887-1505	Town Clerk
Townsend	Funaiole	Susan	978-597-1704	Town Clerk
Tyngsboro	Shifres	Joanne	978-649-2300 ext 129	Town Clerk
Tyringham	Curtin, Jr.	John	413-243-1749	Town Clerk
Wakefield	Galvin, CMC	Mary K	781-246-6383	Town Clerk
Wales	Green	Lynn S.	413-245-7571, x 101	Town Clerk
Ware	Talbot	Nancy J.	413-967-9648, x 122	Town Clerk
Wareham	Silva	Mary Ann	508-291-3100, x 3142	Town Clerk
Warren	Lowell	Nancy J.	413-436-5702	Town Clerk
Warwick	Fellows	Jeannette	978-544-8304	Town Clerk
Washington	Mikaniewicz	Allison	413-623-8878	Town Clerk
Wayland	Toombs, CMC	Lois M.	508-358-3631	Town Clerk
Webster	Craver	Robert T.	508-949-3800, x 4003	Town Clerk
Wellesley	Nagle	Kathleen	781-431-1019- Ext. 223	Town Clerk
Wellfleet	Rickman	Dawn E.	508-349-0301	Town Clerk
Wendell	Smith	Gretchen	978-544-3395, x 102	Town Clerk
Wenham	Reid	Trudy	978-468-5520, x1	Town Clerk
West Boylston	Hopewell	Kim	508-835-6240	Town Clerk
West Bridgewater	Morrison, CMC, CMMC	Nancy L.	508-894-1200	Town Clerk
West Brookfield	Allen	Sarah	508-867-1421, x302	Town Clerk
WEST SPRINGFIELD	Foley, CMMC	Diane F.	413-263-3012	Town Clerk
West Stockbridge	Barrett	Veronica (Ronni)	413-232-0300	Town Clerk
Westborough	Yendriga, CMMC	Nancy J.	508-366-3020	Town Clerk
Westhampton	Cotton	Patricia	413-203-3080	Town Clerk
Westport	Samson	Marlene M.	508-636-1000	Town Clerk
Westwood	Powers	Dottie	781-320-1013	Town Clerk
Weymouth	Fryer	Franklin	781-340-5017	Town Clerk
Whately	Sibley, CMC, CMMC	Lynn	413-665-0054	Town Clerk
Whitman	Martin	Pamela	781-618-9710	Town Clerk
Wilbraham	Litchfield	Beverly	413-596-2800, x 200	Town Clerk
Windsor	Bird	Evelyn	413-684-3811	Town Clerk
Winthrop	Vitale	Carla	617.846.1742	Town Clerk
WORCESTER	Rushford	David J.	508-799-1121	City Clerk
Worthington	Kaminsky	Katrin S.	413-238-5577, x110	Town Clerk
Wrentham	Mollica	Carol	508-384-5415	Town Clerk
Auburn	Gaboury	Ellen C.	508-832-7701	Town Clerk
Carver	McGillicuddy	Jean	508-866-3403	Town Clerk

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APP.
Watson
Amherst
Greenfield

Elected
Needham
Randolph
Tewksbury

Comparing Elected and Appointed Election Officials:

The Impact of Selection Method on Policy Preferences and Administrative Outcomes

* Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin Madison

+ Department of Political Science, University of Colorado-Boulder as of Fall 2010

± La Follette School of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin Madison

1) "The results indicate that elected officials are more in favor of policies that are thought to promote turnout than appointed officials, that their municipalities are associated with higher voter turnout, and that their municipalities have lower voter purge rates."

2) "Additionally, we find that voter turnout is lower when an official's partisanship differs from the partisanship of the electorate, but that this effect obtains only for appointed officials."

3) "We conclude that these results are consistent with the notion that elected officials are more responsive to the preferences of the electorate than appointed officials."

4) In the area of election administration, we expect that efforts to be responsive to citizen desires will take the form of making voting more convenient. Voters typically are concerned about their rights: votes being counted and elections being administered in a manner that is as convenient as possible for them. We propose that elected clerks will be responsive to these preferences and, therefore, will administer elections in a way that will maximize turnout and the number of votes that are counted. As they become more concerned with satisfying the electorate, elected clerks are likely to be less concerned about administrative costs than appointed clerks.

5) "In contrast, appointed clerks are hired by local government officials who are often elected themselves, and often have somewhat different preferences than the electorate. They are responsible for keeping municipal fiscal affairs in order, avoiding scandal and security concerns at the polls, and generally valuing efficiency over voter access when it comes to election administration."

"The local election official they appoint is but one office they must monitor, so it will not act as a perfect agent, but it also means that simple indicators such as the costs of running elections will take priority over other considerations. To the degree that they internalize these preferences, appointed elected administrators will emphasize order and cost containment over high turnout and maximizing voter access to the ballot."

- Claire Higgins /
eliminated
Registration of
voters
(appointed)
position

Dog catcher	110,000.-
Fire	139,000
Police	143,000
Cham	62,000.

Chris
Powers